

Firefighters open new station



Fire Inspector Jose Santiago leads the Fire Department honor guard at the grand opening of Fire Station Number 2, on the west side of the base. The new fire station is near the flight line allowing for a faster response time. The station is about 32,500 square feet and is equipped with features including a weight room, sauna, stainless steel kitchen and personal bunkrooms for 28 people.



Firefighter Aaron Trehane (front), with the help of Firefighter Dan Freiberg, uses the Hurst equipment to cut through a metal car frame, during a vehicle extraction demonstration. Once the frame was cut, they peeled back the roof to gain access to the victim.



Firefighter Thomas Welch stabilizes "accident victim" Firefighter Christopher McCord's head and neck from the backseat of an exercise vehicle during the vehicle extraction demonstration.

Photos by Todd Berenger



Courtesy photo

TEAM KIRTLAND in the desert

Three TEAM KIRTLAND members pose in front of the Balad, Iraq, Chapel. They are, from the left, Staff Sgt. Richard Watson, Jr., 377th Air Base Wing Chapel, Maj. Ronald Burgess, 377th Logistics Readiness Squadron, and Chap., Capt., John Von Almen, also from the base Chapel staff.

Molnar presents performance report writing brief

Col. Lon Molnar, Chief, Military Personnel Division chief at Air Force Materiel Command, presents a briefing on writing performance reports Dec. 16, 8:30-10 a.m., in the theater.

The briefing includes information about the proper tools for writing effective bullets for "OPRs," "EPRs" and "PRFs."

Also included are tips on how to make the most impact through writing the documents.

Supervisors are highly encouraged to attend the briefing that is designed for all supervisors of military personnel. The brief is particularly important information for junior officers.

Surgeon treats different breed of patient in Iraq

BY TECH. SGT.
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506th Air Expeditionary Group
Public Affairs

When members of the 506th Expeditionary Medical Squadron at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, received word they had an important patient waiting for them Nov. 22, they never expected to see Staff Sgt. Todd Brabender from the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.

The patient was not Brabender, but rather his constant companion for nearly three years, Black, a five-year old black German Shepherd.

"He had a previous injury that was aggravated from the conditions over here," Brabender said. "It never really healed properly but nobody really knew that. So we decided to bring him to the medics for evaluation."

Capt., Dr., Dave Schillen, orthopedic surgeon, from the 377th Medical Operations Squadron, evaluated and treated the military working dog.

As an orthopedic surgeon, Schillen was the only one qualified to properly treat the animal.

"When they asked me to see Black, I was a little surprised. Then I realized that I was the only one qualified to look at a stress fracture on a working dog, since we don't have a vet in Northern Iraq," Schillen said.

"It was a little more difficult to work on dogs than humans because they can't tell you where it hurts," he added.

Schillen said the experience taught him a few things about the physiology of dogs.



Courtesy photo

Capt., Dr., Dave Schillen and Black.

"I realized they have a really high pain threshold," he said. "It was difficult to find where it hurt. It was a little awkward reading dog X-rays at first, but due to excellent X-rays we were able to see that we had a stress fracture of one of the bones in his hind midfoot."

Schillen said Black was given a splint plus plenty of rest for his treatment.

"They do a lot of work and walk all day. He is not in a position to do that right now. With appropriate follow up, Black should do just fine," Schillen said.

As for Brabender and Black, they are waiting to rotate out of the area in order for the working dog to receive further treatment.